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CUSTOMER NO. 31013

PATENT
177079-00270

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	:	Sears, et al.
Serial No.	:	10/677,811
Filed	:	October 2, 2003
For	:	CROSS-LINKED CELLULOSE FIBERS AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME
Group Art Unit:		1772
Examiner	:	N/A

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below, addressed to: MAIL STOP DESIGN, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on April 27, 2004

Date: April 27, 2004

Express Mail No. EV 216143719 US

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Signature: Kim Wright

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

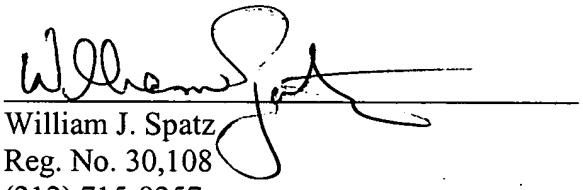
Applicants respectfully submit this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying PTO 1449 form pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98 to comply with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56. A copy of the listed references are not being provided pursuant to the Official Gazette Notice dated 05 August 2003 waiving the requirement for filing copies of U.S. Patents under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(2)(ii).

This Information Disclosure Statement is not a representation that the documents cited in the attached PTO-1449 form are considered most pertinent, or that a search has been undertaken, or that any of the cited documents is indeed prior art. The Examiner is invited to undertake an independent search.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and make of record the identified documents. Applicants further request that a copy of the Form PTO-1449, appropriately initialed by the Examiner, be returned to Applicants' attorney.

Pursuant to Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), an Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office if filed before the mailing date of the first Official Action on the merits. As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of an Official Action on the merits, no fee is believed to be necessary for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any fee is found to be due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee, or credit any overpayment in such fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

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Based on Form PTO-1449 (3/90)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 177079-00270	SERIAL NO. N/A
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) (Page 1 of 2)	APPLICANTS Sears et al	
	FILING DATE	GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	3,526,048	9/1970	Rowland et al.			
	AB	3,932,209	1/1976	Chatterjee			
	AC	4,082,500	4/1978	Ward et al.			
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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	BA							

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.